



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

You keep in the dark the fact that we were compelled to socialize many of our public utilities to avoid [*sic*] your noble class of pilferers from holding up and defeating the nation in the present crisis. You publish the most abominable falsities about the Soviet government of Russia, showing that you cater to the imps of hell for your hypocritical buncombe. You foxily forget to mention that the awful plight in which Russia finds herself to-day is the true legacy of commercial capitalism. You rant about a straw man you label "socialism," but are silent as the grave about the horrors that capitalism has thrust on the European nations in their fight for commercial supremacy, and fail to point out that, win or lose the war as may be, the same infernal capitalistic conditions stare the world in the face with all their hideousness, admitting, as you do, that on the morrow after peace they may again wrangle like Kilkenny cats over the commercial bones. You prove that your hatred of Germany is all because she was outgrabbing the rest of the world in the way of commerce, and had to be destroyed, or the other capitalistic nations would be forced to take the bankruptcy act. So round and round you go with your commercial hydra-headed juggernaut, crushing one nation and then another in its ghastly dance of death. But to hide your imperial tyranny, you throw dust in the eyes of the people as you plunge madly and insanely after your bogey man you christen "socialism." If Russia was just as bad as your lying diatribe attempts to picture her, then she is only a haven compared to the frightfulness your commercial monster, capitalism, is now thrusting on the world in the annihilation of more than ten million of the flower of the world's young men, mutilating thirty million more, filling the world with hatred and bankruptcy. Again you urge preparation for the commercial war that must necessarily follow in the wake of this world-wide holocaust if capitalism, the dream of your morbid mind, is to survive. Not one morsel do you offer for the poor boys who have taken their lives in their hands and gone forth to battlefield to spill their blood that capitalism may survive and the unearned dollars still rattle into the bloated, ill-gotten coffers of commercial pirates. Those boys you, in your capitalistic ghost dance, regard as so many chess on the board with which to win the dollars produced in the sweat and toil of the working class. You forget that capitalism is dead in Russia, and that the ghouls of the human race are reaping the harvest they had sown in the many years of the reign of your friend the Tsar of all the Russias. It is only the class you and your kind have so foully betrayed, turning and rending the parasites that refuse to get off their backs until bumped off at the end of a rope.

CENTRALIA, WASH.

A READER.

### PESSIMISM

SIR,—Not for a long, long time have I read anything that stirred my heart like the writing of Harrison Rhodes in the August NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW on "The Country My Father Told Me Of." It is beautiful in its diction, appealing in its sentiment, and, oh! so immeasurably pathetic in its effort to be optimistic.

I wish I could work up even as much optimism as Mr. Rhodes has, questioning as it is, when he asks: "And can we recapture for our war and our reconstruction something of the fervor of our fathers—something

of their high idealism?" The only answer I can see is, "Nevermore."

I lived through the Civil War. A dear brother fought all through, and came home with ruined health. Ten years after the war he declared, "Had I foreseen the use that was to be made of our victory I would never have lifted a finger to win the war."

I remember well the talk of "Liberty" and all the enthusiasm that went with it, and sometimes now it seems as if I were living those old days over again—so like are the things that are now being said and done.

There is any amount of hurrah and generalizing for "democracy," but when I look for deeds, or even for words that point thereto with any definiteness, I do not find them.

At the close of the Civil War I saw the quick rise of American plutocracy, which without the war would have taken at least a century, and might never have come. I saw the destruction of the "unsnobbish country," which Mr. Rhodes so lovingly tells us about, and the installation of shoddy and snobs.

If the stage is not now set for a world-wide plutocracy backed by a world-wide military establishment, let me be set down as one who cannot discern the signs of the times.

When the war is over, the men who have done the fighting, such of them as are left alive, will have to work to pay its debts. And there will be nowhere for them to go for escape. "A League of Nations" will attend to that.

Oh, Mr. Rhodes: If you want to keep your beautiful dream, die now, before the end of the war!

DENVER, COLO.

CELIA BALDWIN WHITEHEAD.

### SHOULD WOMEN BE FIT TO VOTE?

SIR,—Believing you to be one of the few independent thinkers of the country and knowing the power you wield through your pen, I want to call to your attention what seems a mistake to me in the present woman's suffrage propaganda, namely, the idea that it should be universal without any qualification of any kind. I do this so that you may bring the point favorably and forcefully to public notice before it is too late, if it appeals to you.

Even the heathen Chinese recognized the fact that a person without intelligence was not fit to cast a ballot in their republic. One of the few mistakes of the founders of our republic was to grant men universal suffrage without making the individual prove his fitness for the privilege. The result is that to-day voting is done by men so ignorant that they know nothing about the questions they are casting their ballots to decide.

The point that I am advancing is that there should be some mental qualification and a slight property one (the payment of some tax or otherwise) to allow a man or woman to vote. We cannot hope to get the ignorant men to vote away the suffrage which they have, but in giving it to women, intelligence could be made a condition, and the women themselves should be willing and ready to further that condition. When the number of women having voting power under that condition should become large enough so that they, combined with the intelligent voters among the men, exceed the ignorant voters, then the same quality—intelli-